

Honorable James L. Robart

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE  
CENTER and MICHELLE DILLON,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION  
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, and  
OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT,

Defendants.

No. 2:18-cv-01442-JLR

**JOINT STATUS REPORT AND  
ORDER**

Note on Motion Calendar:  
**July 7, 2020**

Plaintiffs THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER (“HRDC”) and  
MICHELLE DILLON (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) and Defendants U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES and OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT (collectively, “Defendants”) hereby provide the Court with a Joint Status Report pursuant to the Court’s June 5, 2020 Order (Dkt. No. 53).

As indicated in the last Joint Status Report (Dkt. No. 52), filed on June 5, 2020, Plaintiffs and Defendants have resolved the substance of their dispute regarding Plaintiffs’ Freedom of Information Act requests. The only remaining issue is the potential award of

1 fees and costs. The Parties are attempting to resolve that issue without the need for judicial  
 2 intervention. Plaintiffs have submitted a demand for attorneys' fees and costs to  
 3 Defendants, which Defendants currently are evaluating. As both the Office of the United  
 4 States Attorney for the Western District of Washington and the United States Department of  
 5 Health and Human Services must evaluate and approve any settlement, which is a time-  
 6 intensive process, the Parties are not yet prepared to file a stipulated dismissal of this  
 7 matter. The Parties request that they be given until August 27, 2020, to file a stipulated  
 8 dismissal of this matter with prejudice if they reach agreement on fees and costs. Should  
 9 the Parties not resolve that issue August 27, 2020, the Parties would submit a joint status  
 10 report on that date.

11 Dated: July 7, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

**ARETE LAW GROUP PLLC**

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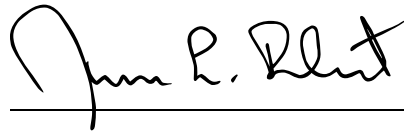
*Attorneys for Defendants*

**ORDER**

It is hereby ORDERED that:

The Parties shall submit either a stipulated dismissal or a joint status report to the Court on or before August 27, 2020.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2020



JAMES L. ROBART  
United States District Judge

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this date, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

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*Attorneys for Defendants*

DATED: July 7, 2020, at Seattle, Washington.

s/ Janet Fischer  
Janet Fischer, Legal Assistant